ATLAS

MENACE

OCT.

MENACE

10¢

NO. 8

TALES OF MADDENING MENACE

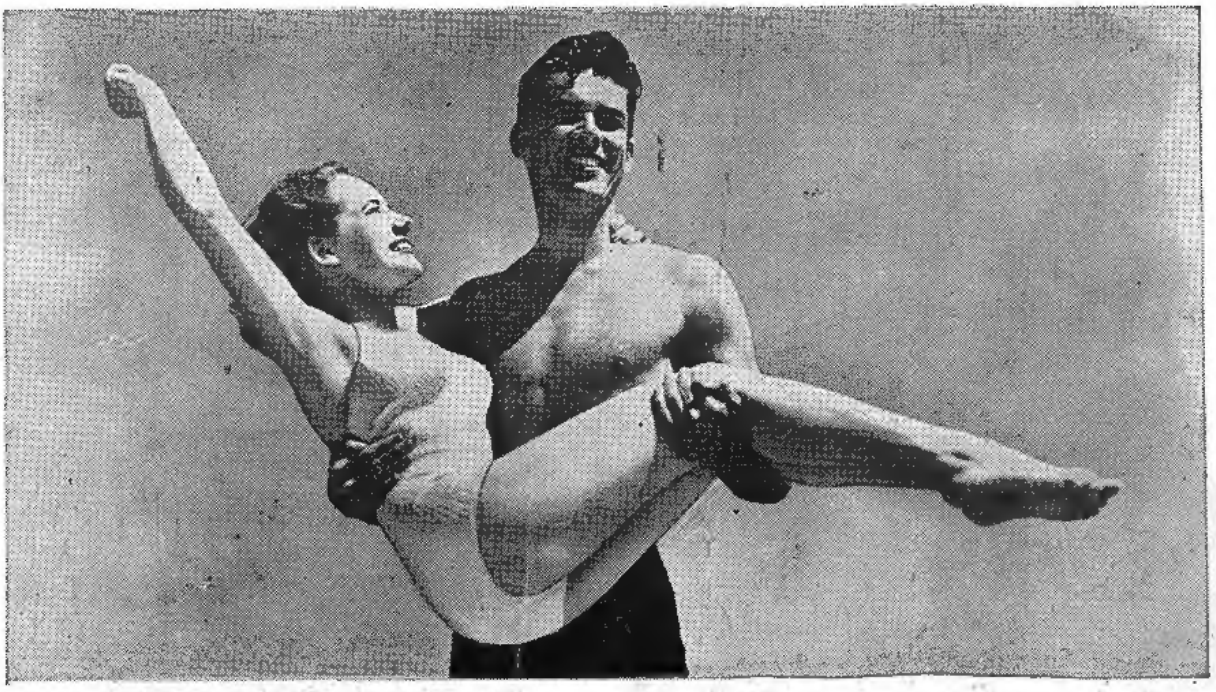
HORROR!

FEAR!

TERROR!

"THE LIZARD-MAN!"

ON SALE MONTHLY



Skinny Girls Don't Have OOMPH!

It takes those extra lbs. of solid flesh to "bring out" your natural curves

If you're otherwise healthy but skinny, scrawny, rundown and lbs. underweight, try correcting this common mistake in eating.

THERE are three essential substances that many thin, scrawny and undernourished girls may fail to get in sufficient quantity from the food they eat. These substances are Vitamin B_1, calcium phosphate and iron. If, like thousands of others, you are underweight without organic cause . . . never seem to gain a pound . . . are so thin that you look gangling and gawky from insufficient amounts of these precious elements, don't get discouraged.

You may find that by correcting this simple mistake in eating you can easily add firm solid flesh . . . extra alluring pounds that help bring out those natural eye-catching curves. A simple and easy way is to try the amazing new product called Numal that supplies, in significant amounts, the Vitamin B_1, calcium phosphate and iron needed in the daily diet. Plus a food that in itself is a great help in adding extra pounds.

Take 1 heaping teaspoonful of Numal 3 times a day. It is pleasant, assimilable and easy to take. You will get the equivalent in Vitamin B_1 content of 34 cakes of average moist baker's yeast . . . the iron equivalent of 15 pounds of tomatoes or 1⅔ pounds of spinach or 9 pounds of boiled beets...and the calcium equivalent of ⅘ths pint of fresh cow's milk, the phosphorus content of 1 glass.

Remember, if you don't get a sufficient quantity of Vitamin B_1 in your daily diet, you may suffer loss of appetite. And without sufficient iron, the element that helps build rich red blood, you may be rundown, pale, weak and listless. You need calcium phosphate for sound teeth and sturdy bones.

SKINNY MEN ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE EITHER

. . . a skinny, scrawny body is no asset in social or business life. Give NUMAL a chance to build you up, put firm flesh on you.

Numal Must Please You or No Cost

So if you are skinny, gangling and bony from lack of these precious nutrients, don't wait any longer. Get Numal today. You will want those extra pounds that "bring out" your natural eye-catching curves. Take Numal faithfully for a week. See if you can't actually feel the difference . . . gain weight and better color. If after this short period you honestly don't feel Numal has benefited you, just return the bottle for a complete refund of your money. Numal costs but a few cents a day to use.

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Name .....

Address .....

City..... Zone... State.....

NOTE: If you want to save all postal charges enclose $2 check, money order or cash. We will pay all postal charges. Same money-back guarantee.

Sorry: Canadian orders cannot be sent C.O.D. Send International Money Order.

If loss of weight persists see your doctor

U. S. NATURE PRODUCTS CORP., 3560 Broadway, Dept. 97-D New York 31, N.Y.

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HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT KIND OF CREATURES MAY INHABIT THE VAST REGIONS DEEP BELOW THE SURFACE OF OUR PLANET EARTH? WELL, IF YOU SHOULD EVER SPOT A CREEP LIKE ZRAA ZROMM COMING DOWN THE HIGHWAY, YOU'LL HAVE THE ANSWER!

THE LIZARD-MAN

YOU OOZE OUT OF THE SOGGY, LAVA-DRENCHED EARTH AND LOOK AROUND YOU, ZRAA ZROMM! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN COUNTLESS CENTURIES THAT ONE OF YOU CREATURES FROM THE CENTER OF THE EARTH HAS COME TO THE SURFACE!
Stan Lee & Joe Maneely
A TALE OF MADDENING MENACE!

YOU SLITHER ALONG THE GROUND TRYING TO ACCUSTOM YOUR NITROGEN GILLS TO THE UGLY, UNBEARABLE STENCH OF THE NAUSEATING AIR...

YOUR SPEED IS UNBELIEVABLY FAST! AFTER BURROWING THRU THE HEAVY GRAVITY OF THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH, THE SURFACE ATMOSPHERE SEEMS ALMOST GRAVITYLESS TO YOU!

YOU REALIZE THAT YOU'RE APPROACHING A TOWN! THOSE SMALL WOODEN THINGS AHEAD MUST BE BUILDINGS, AND THOSE WEAK-LOOKING, TWO-LEGGED CREATURES...THEY MUST BE THE DOMINANT RACE ON EARTH!

SUDDENLY, ONE OF THE TINY CREATURES SEES YOU! IT'S HORRIBLE-LOOKING FEATURES CONTORT INTO A LOOK OF SHEER TERROR!

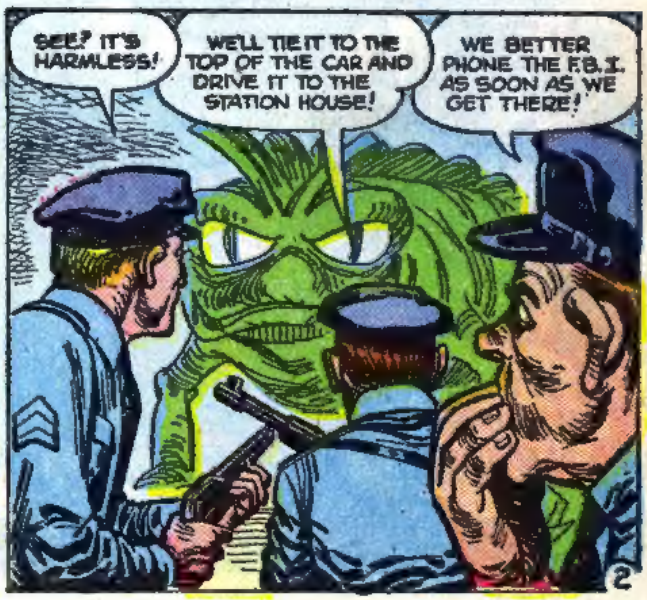
IT TURNS FROM YOU AND RUNS TOWARD THE CENTER OF TOWN AS FAST AS ITS INEFFECTUAL LITTLE LEGS CAN CARRY IT! YOU, ZRAA ZROMM, COULD CATCH IT IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, BUT YOU'RE IN NO HURRY! YOU HAVE MUCH TO SEE...MUCH TO LEARN!

MINUTES LATER, A LARGER CREATURE COMES TOWARD YOU! IT'S BIG AND BLACK, AND MUCH FASTER THAN THE SMALL HUMAN WHO JUST FLED IN TERROR!

SUDDENLY IT STOPS, AND FROM WITHIN IT, FIVE HUMANS POUR OUT, HOLDING SMALL, MENACING-LOOKING STICKS!

BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, THE LITTLE CREATURES HAVE SURROUNDED YOU, BUT YOU MAKE NO MOVE...YOU'RE TOO BUSY LISTENING TO THEIR STRANGE LANGUAGE, INTEGRATING IT INTO YOUR VAST, CENTURIES-OLD BRAIN!

YOU MOVE BACK, SENSING THAT THEY'RE TRYING TO HERD YOU TOWARD THE LARGE, BLACK, 4-WHEELED THING WHICH WAITS SILENTLY BEHIND YOU!


SEE? IT'S HARMLESS!
WE'LL TIE IT TO THE TOP OF THE CAR AND DRIVE IT TO THE STATION HOUSE!
WE BETTER PHONE THE F.B.I. AS SOON AS WE GET THERE!

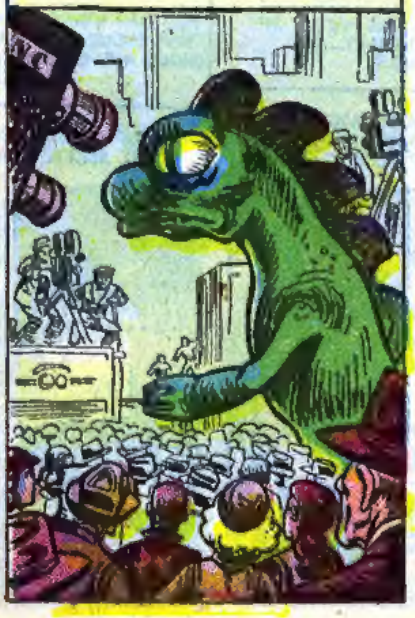
BY NOW, YOUR AMAZINGLY ADVANCED INTELLECT HAS DISSECTED THE HUMANS' SIMPLE LANGUAGE, AND YOU ARE ABLE TO CONVERSE WITH THEM, WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS OF YOUR SUB-SURFACE VOCAL CORDS..

AS THOUGH STRUCK BY LIGHTNING, THE HUMANS FREEZE IN THEIR TRACKS...INCREDULITY AND DISBELIEF ON THEIR MISSHAPEN FEATURES..

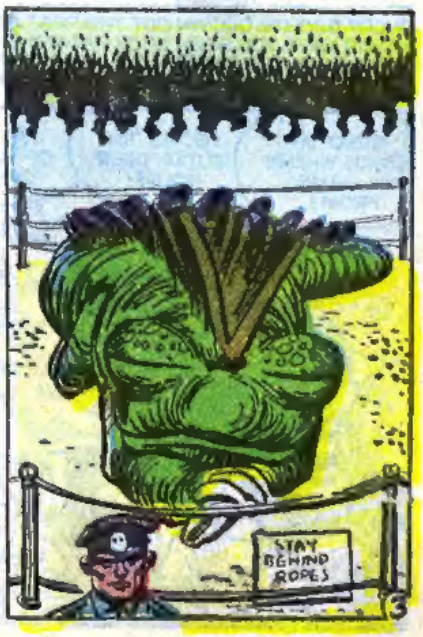
DO NOT BE AFRAID! I AM ZRAA ZROMM, FROM UNDER THE EARTH! I AM HERE ON BEHALF OF THE MILLIONS OF MY RACE, WHO DWELL AT THE EARTH'S CORE!
WH...WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WITHIN HOURS, THE NEWSPAPERS OF THE WORLD HAVE YOUR IMAGE ON THEIR FRONT PAGES, CROWDING OFF ALL MENTIONS OF WARS, POLITICS AND CRIME!

NEWSREEL AND T.V. CAMERAMEN... COMMENTATORS...MILITARY LEADERS... GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS...ALL FIGHT FOR A CHANCE TO GET NEAR YOU... TO STUDY YOU!

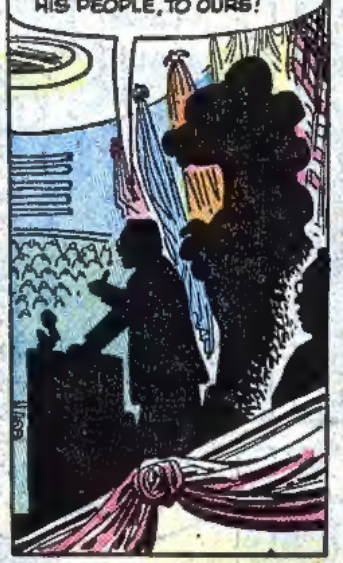


AND THRU IT ALL, ZRAA ZROMM, YOU REMAIN CALM, PEACEFUL...WAITING FOR YOUR CHANCE TO BE HEARD BY THE LEADERS OF EARTH!



FINALLY YOUR MOMENT COMES! AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IS CALLED, WITH YOU SCHEDULED TO BE THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... I GIVE YOU ZRAA ZROMM, FROM THE CENTER OF EARTH... WITH A MESSAGE FROM HIS PEOPLE, TO OURS!



YOU BEGIN TO SPEAK, SLOWLY AT FIRST...AND THEN GATHERING SPEED...YOU'VE LEARNED THE LANGUAGES OF THE EARTH WELL...YOU'VE LEARNED THE CUSTOMS... BUT YOU STILL CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE HEARTS AND EMOTIONS OF THE PEOPLE!

YOU LOOK AROUND THE VAST HALL...YOU SEE THE EXPRESSIONS OF SHOCK...OF DISMAY...OF ANGER!

IT IS A DIRTY CAPITALIST TRICK TO STEAL SOVIET LAND!
IT JOLLY WELL SOUNDS LIKE A THREAT TO OUR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY!
IS HE KIDDIN'?
FIFTY MILLION FRENCHMEN WILL BE UP IN ARMS!

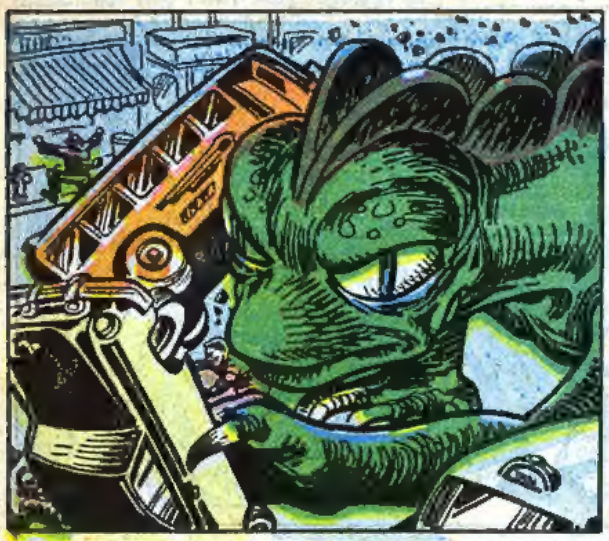
YOU KEEP SPEAKING...YOU TRY TO EXPLAIN YOUR POSITION... THEY'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND!

CAN'T YOU SEE? I'M NOT THREATENING AN INVASION... I'M MERELY ASKING FOR A PLACE FOR MY PEOPLE! SURELY THERE'S SOME SPOT ON THE SURFACE OF THIS GREAT PLANET WHERE WE MAY FIND A HOME!

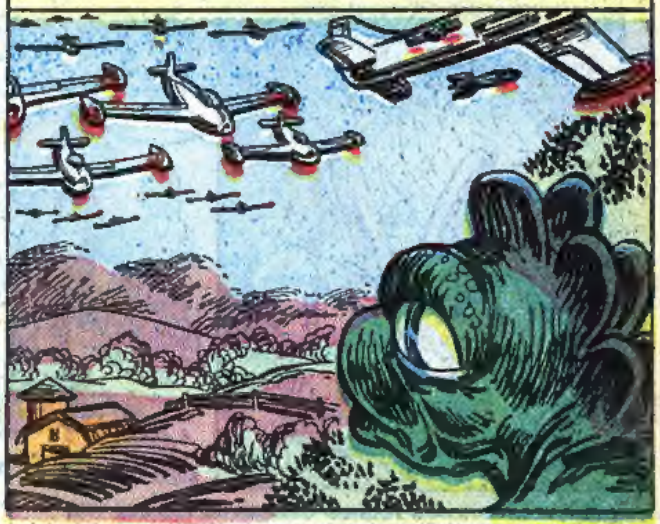
ANGRY SHOUTS DROWN OUT THE REST OF YOUR SPEECH! NEVER HAVE YOU SEEN SUCH HATRED ON THE FACES OF ANY LIVING CREATURES! YOU CAN'T FATHOM IT...ARE THE SURFACE-DWELLERS INSANE?

YOU CAN STAND NO MORE! YOUR TEMPER HAS BEEN STRAINED PAST ENDURANCE! YOU PUSH PAST THE GUARDS AT YOUR SIDES AND STORM THRU THE HALL...BRUSHING DELEGATES ASIDE LIKE TENPINS!

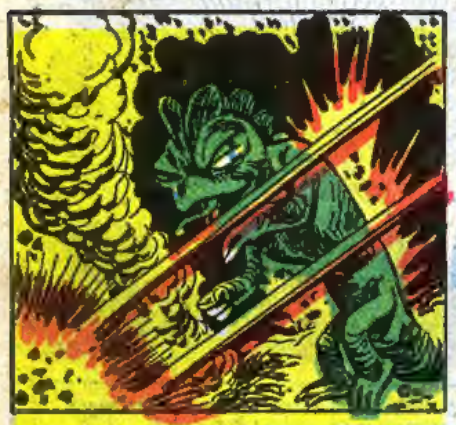
YOU SLITHER INTO THE STREET AT EXPRESS-TRAIN SPEED! CARS, LAMPPOSTS, PEOPLE...ALL ARE HURLED ASIDE IN YOUR MAD FURY!



FINALLY YOU REACH AN OPEN FIELD...YOUR ANGER IS SPENT! YOU STOP TO REST FOR A MOMENT AND THEN YOU HEAR IT...LIKE THE SOUND OF A MILLION ANGRY HORNETS...UP IN THE SKY!



THEY FIRE STRANGE LITTLE PELLETS AT YOU AND DROP HUGE EXPLOSIVES! THE WEAPONS CAN'T HARM THE SKIN WHICH HAS BEEN HARDENED BY CENTURIES OF BURROWING THRU ROCK, AND FLAME, AND STONE...BUT THE MURDEROUS ATTACK ANGERS YOU BEYOND MEASURE!



YOU TEAR BACK TO THE CITY AND HEAD FOR THE ASSEMBLY HALL...

YOU SHOUT TO THE MEMBERS WHO STILL HAVEN'T LEFT...WORDS WHICH WILL BE REMEMBERED AS LONG AS MEN REMAIN ON EARTH...

YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE. YOU TURNED IT DOWN! FOR AGES WE THOUGHT YOU HUMANS WERE OUR FRIENDS...WE HELD BACK THE MUNNTOSSO FOR YOU...ONLY WE PREVENTED THE MUNNTOSSO FROM DESTROYING THE SURFACE OF EARTH!

BUT NOW WE WILL HELP YOU NO LONGER! NOW WE WILL LEAVE YOU TO THE MERCY OF THE MUNNTOSSO! AND THEN, WHEN HUMAN BEINGS ARE GONE FROM THE EARTH, WE WILL OCCUPY IT ALONE! I HAVE SPOKEN!
GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT IS THE MUNNTOSSO?
IGNORE HIM! IT'S JUST A BLUFF!
HE'S TRYING TO SCARE US INTO ACCEPTING HIM!

YOU TURN TOWARD THE FLOOR AND START TO BURROW BACK DOWN TO YOUR PEOPLE...CUTTING THRU THE CONCRETE AND THE STONE AS IF THEY ARE BUT PAPER!

A SMILE COMES TO YOUR LIPS AS YOU REALIZE THE SURFACE DWELLERS DON'T REALIZE WHAT THE MUMMITOSSO ARE! BUT THEY'LL FIND OUT!

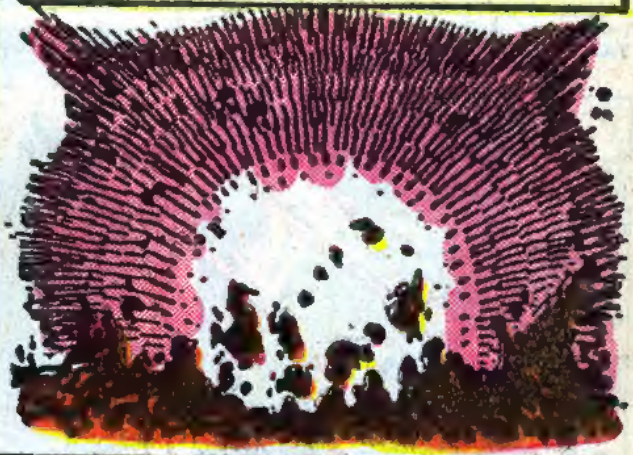
IT DOESN'T TAKE YOU LONG TO REACH YOUR OWN PEOPLE! A COMMITTEE IS AWAITING YOUR RETURN...

YOU ARE BACK SOON, ZRAA ZROMM! HAVE YOU GOOD TIDINGS?
I WAS MET WITH HATRED AND DISTRUST!
IT IS AS WE FEARED! THERE IS NOTHING TO DO BUT RELEASE CONTROL OF THE MUMMITOSSO!

AT A SIGNAL, THE HUGE CENTRAL CONTROL WHEEL WHICH AFFECTS A CHAIN OF BARRIERS UNDER THE ENTIRE EARTH, IS TURNED...FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE GLACIAL AGE!

THEN, ALL EYES ARE TURNED UPWARD AS YOU AND THE MILLIONS LIKE YOU, WAIT FOR THE MUMMITOSSO TO BREAK FREE AND OVERRUN THE SURFACE!

A ROAR, LOUDER THAN THE BLAST OF A THOUSAND H-BOMBS, BOOMS OVER THE SURFACE! THE MUMMITOSSO ARE HEARD FROM THE POLES TO THE EQUATOR!



YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE WAIT FOR A FEW DAYS, SURFACE TIME, AND THEN BEGIN THE LONG JOURNEY SURFACEWARD! NOW THAT THE MUMMITOSSO HAVE DONE THEIR WORK, YOU WILL CONTROL THEM AGAIN AS YOU'VE DONE FOR AGES—UNKNOWN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SURFACE!

TOO BAD THE HUMANS NEVER TOOK THE TIME TO FIND OUT THAT THEIR WORD FOR MUMMITOSSO IS ...VOLCANO!

THE END

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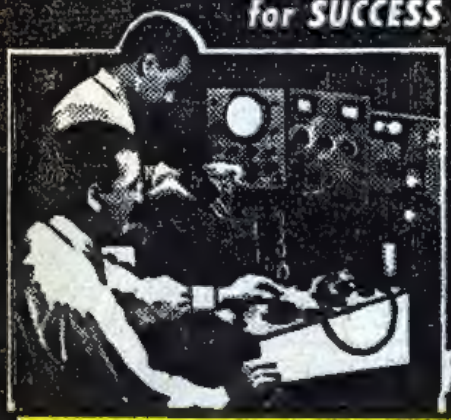

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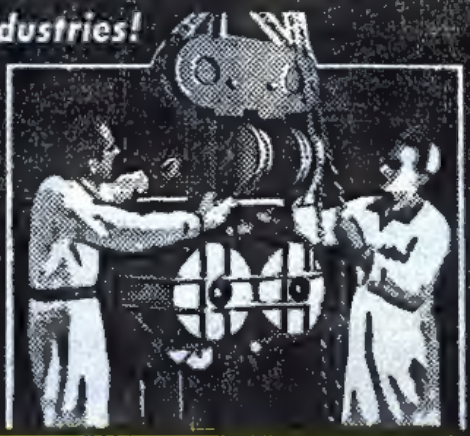

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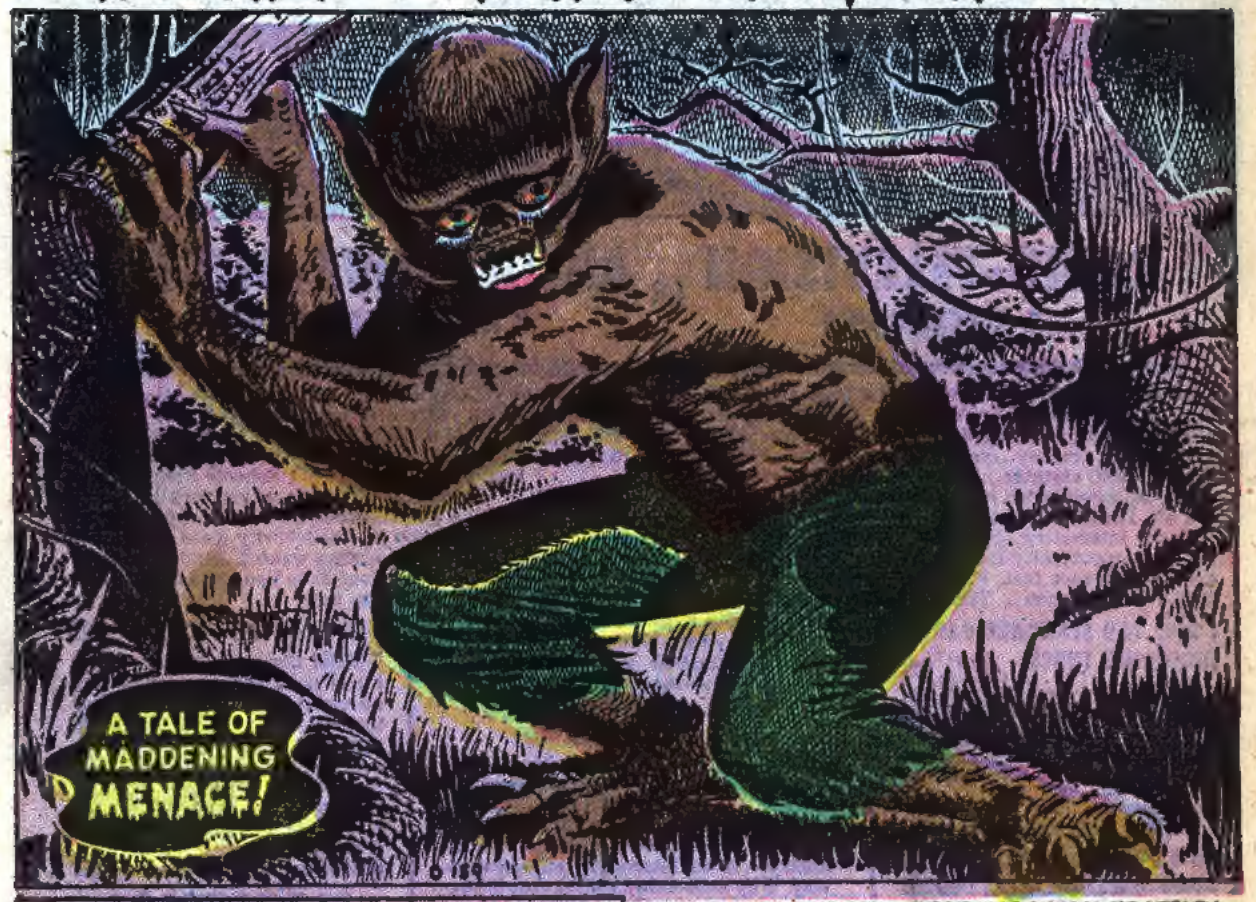
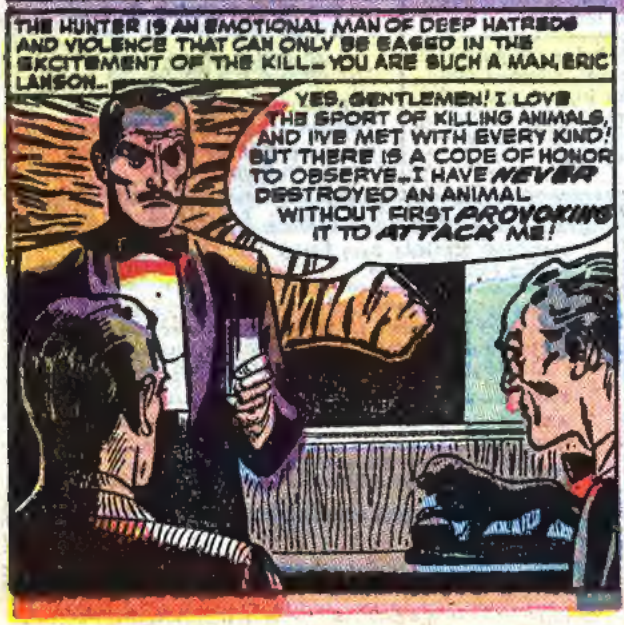
MOST PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF THE "BIG BAD WOLF," SO WE DECIDED TO TRY A SWITCHEROO... IN THIS TALE, IT'S THE WOLF... ER, THAT IS, *WEREWOLF*... WHO SEEMS TO BE COWARDLY! THE BEAST'S *REASON* WILL SHOCK YOU!

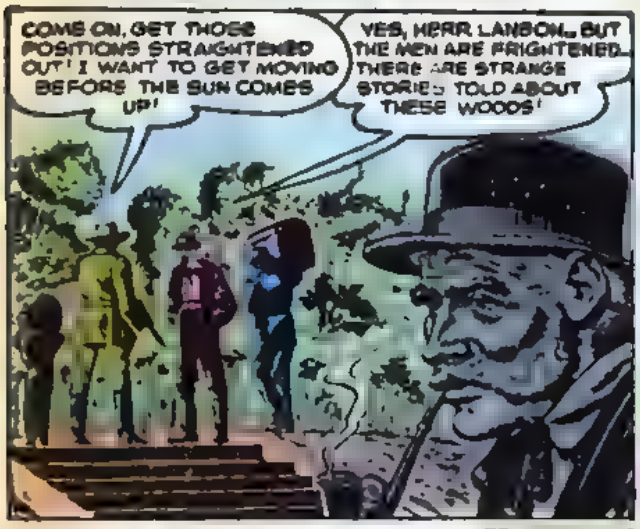
THE WEREWOLF WAS AFRAID




THE HUNTER IS AN EMOTIONAL MAN OF DEEP HATREDS AND VIOLENCE THAT CAN ONLY BE EASED IN THE EXCITEMENT OF THE KILL... YOU ARE SUCH A MAN, ERIC LANSON...
YES, GENTLEMEN! I LOVE THE SPORT OF KILLING ANIMALS, AND I'VE MET WITH EVERY KIND! BUT THERE IS A CODE OF HONOR TO OBSERVE... I HAVE *NEVER* DESTROYED AN ANIMAL WITHOUT FIRST *PROVOKING* IT TO *ATTACK* ME!

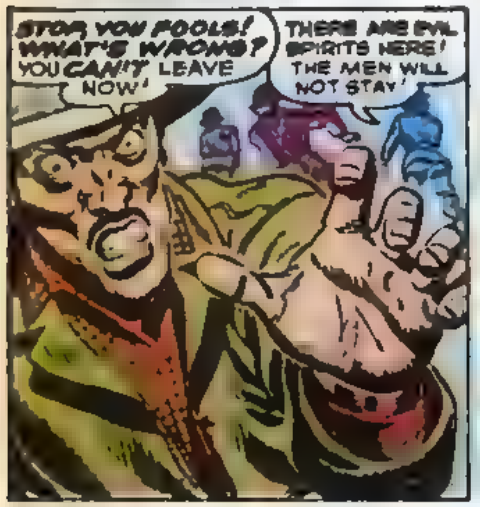
YOUR BOAST THAT YOU GOAD THE ANIMAL TO ATTACK YOU FIRST WINS THE APPROVAL OF THE OTHER SPORTSMEN, BUT YOUR NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT STARTLES THEM...
I'VE HUNTED EVERY TYPE OF CREATURE IN THE WORLD, AND NOW I'M GOING AFTER THE MOST CLEVER, MOST DANGEROUS OF THEM ALL... I AM GOING TO AUSTRIA WHERE I HEAR THERE ARE RUMORS OF *WEREWOLVES!*
WEREWOLVES!

IN A SHORT TIME THE HUNTING PARTY IS ORGANIZED IN AUSTRIA' YOU CHECK YOUR AIDES AT THE JUMPING OFF POINT YOU ARE EAGER TO MOVE ..


COME ON, GET THOSE POSITIONS STRAIGHTENED OUT! I WANT TO GET MOVING BEFORE THE SUN COMES UP!
YES, HERR LANSON... BUT THE MEN ARE FRIGHTENED. THERE ARE STRANGE STORIES TOLD ABOUT THESE WOODS!

IN SPITE OF THEIR FEARS, THEY HEAD DEEP INTO THE BLACK WOODS THAT HOLD A DAMPNESS OF AGES IN THE ROTTING UNDERGROWTH' TENSION MOUNTS IN YOU, ERIC LANSON...

YES, CLOSER TO THE ANCIENT HOME OF YOUR WEIRD PREY.. THE MEN WHO ARE ALSO WOLVES..AND THE AUSTRIAN NATIVES SENSE IT'



A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE MEN ARE GONE AND YOU ARE ALONE IN THE UNFAMILIAR WILDERNESS.

A SIXTH SENSE TELLS YOU THAT YOU ARE NEAR YOUR QUARRY AND INSTINCTIVELY YOU RAISE YOUR RIFLE TO YOUR SHOULDER...

BUT A SCENE GREETS YOUR EYES THAT ALL OF YOUR YEARS OF HUNTING HAVE NOT PREPARED YOU FOR'

IT'S TRUE.. A SCENE THAT NO LIVING MAN HAS EVER SEEN BEFORE! THE MOST FEARFUL, TERRIFYING CREATURE THAT MAN HAS KNOWN.. AND WHAT IS IT DOING ?

THIS IS INCREDIBLE! I COULD KNOCK HIM OFF EASILY, BUT HOW CAN I KILL A CREATURE THAT'S READING POETRY AND SMELLING FLOWERS?
COME ON! ATTACK ME, YOU STUPID WEREWOLF! FIGHT!
OH, YOU ENGLISHMEN ARE ALL ALIKE! GO AWAY AND STOP BOTHERING ME! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY?
COWARD! YOU'RE AFRAID! COME ON, FIGHT! LIKE A... A WHATEVER YOU ARE! I'M WAITING!
YOU'RE BORING ME, LITTLE MAN! GO AWAY AND PLAY WITH YOUR TOYS SOMEWHERE ELSE!
I'LL MAKE YOU FIGHT, YOU VILE CREATURE! YOU DON'T HAVE AN OUNCE OF PRIDE IN YOU, OR YOU'D TRY TO KILL ME AT ONCE!
YOU'RE A FOOL! NOW FOR THE LAST TIME, LEAVE ME ALONE AND GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM! I DON'T INTEND TO ALLOW A BAD-MANNERED ENGLISHMAN TO MAKE ME ANGRY... YOU'RE A CAD!
THE THOUGHT OF BEING TRICKED OUT OF YOUR QUARRY BY A POETRY-READING WEREWOLF MAKES YOU FUME WITH ANGER...
YOUR BLOOD BOILS AS YOU THINK OF WHAT THE MEMBERS BACK AT THE CLUB WOULD SAY...
AND THE RAGE WITHIN YOU BEGINS TO DRIVE YOU MAD WITH THE VIOLENT DESIRE TO KILL...
THE DESIRE THAT BURNS DEEPER AND DEEPER WITHIN YOU UNTIL YOU FEEL YOURSELF CONSUMED WITH FIRE!
I'LL KILL YOU! KILL! KILL!!

BUT SUDDENLY WITHOUT WARNING, THE WEREWOLF CHARGES AT YOU, ERIC LANSON, KNOCKING YOUR GUN OUT OF REACH...
WHAT TH—?? MY GUN—YOU'VE BROKEN IT!
YOU'VE SHOUTED SOME PRETTY NASTY THINGS AT ME, ENGLISHMAN! NOW WE'LL SEE HOW BRAVE YOU ARE WITHOUT YOUR SILVER BULLETS!
NO! NO! P—PLEASE DON'T KILL ME! I'LL DO ANYTHING!
HEH! HEH! NOW LET'S SEE WHO'S A COWARD...YOU'VE REALLY GIVEN ME QUITE AN APPETITE!
SLOWLY THE WEREWOLF MOVES FORWARD, ITS HOT BREATH SEARING YOUR FACE...
NOW YOU'RE REALLY HOT UNDER THE COLLAR!
SALIVA DRIPS FROM THE HUNGRY FANGS AS THE WOLFMAN CLOSES IN ON HIS TRAPPED PREY..
ALL THAT EXCITEMENT MADE YOUR BLOOD BOIL, DIDN'T IT?
CLOSER AND CLOSER TO YOU, ERIC LANSON, HE STALKS, SNARLING WITH UNLEASHED APPETITE...
YOU WERE BURNING UP, BURNING TO KILL ME!
A TERRIFIED SCREAM OF PAIN, AS THE WEREWOLF ATTACKS, AND THEN A MOMENT OF SILENCE, BROKEN ONLY BY THE DISTANT HOOTING OF AN OWL..
NOW—YOU'RE REALLY READY!
AAAAIIEEE
IT ALWAYS WORKS WITH THOSE FOOLISH ENGLISHMEN! I JUST HAVE TO WAIT TILL THEY GET ALL STEAMED UP—BLOOD BOILING AND HOT UNDER THE COLLAR! AND I ALWAYS PREFER THAT TO A COLD MEAL!
THE END
4
ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

THE COLLECTOR

HIS name was Gregory Lewis. Those who had the misfortune to come into contact with him said he was half-mad. A man as rich as Lewis was should have devoted his time and money to more worthwhile pursuits. What did Gregory Lewis do with his fortune? He collected things . . . not stamps or coins or rare books. Nothing as simple as that! His greatest obsession was to collect instruments of torture as well as their victims! In a special room in his mansion Lewis had a varied collection of medieval torture instruments, such as the Iron Maiden, the bone-stretching rack, whipping posts. He also had quite a collection of hangman's nooses, which had strangled the life from countless highway robbers, horse thieves, and pirates. And of course he had a genuine guillotine which had ended the lives of many noble Frenchmen rather abruptly during the Revolution and Reign of Terror in France.

We indicated that Lewis also collected the "victims" of torture and cruel punishment. He had shrunken heads from the South American jungles, mummified corpses of guillotine and gallows victims. Is it any wonder that his acquaintances labeled him as mad? Would any man in his right mind devote his time and fortune to such a macabre collection? And so Gregory Lewis took delight in his possessions . . articles which repelled all others who were granted the doubtful privilege of viewing his weird assortment of torture instruments and victims.

And yet there was a certain source of frustration for the mad collector. What good did these torture instruments do *him*, he often thought to himself, if he could not make use of them himself? So one day he took a stroll along the Bowery and looked over the penniless human derelicts lying in doorways or in the gutter. He singled out one man who seemed to avoid companionship with the others. Lewis approached him and offered him work on his estate. Lewis was surprised at the man's ready acceptance. He always thought most of these penniless men preferred to maintain their precarious existence rather than do any kind of work. Lewis drove the man to his country estate, showed him to a small room above the garage where he could sleep, and left him for the night. Then Lewis made his way to his special room where the instruments of torture were kept. His eyes fell on a whipping post. Just the thing, the madman thought. It's one form of punishment I can make use of without maiming or killing the man.

The next day, Lewis told his new employee to clean up the cellar. All through the day, Lewis visualized the pleasure he would have whipping his servant for not doing his work properly! And so it was that at the end of the day, instead of feeding his new manservant, Lewis grabbed him and bound him to the whipping post in his torture room! Lewis raised the whip and struck once . . . twice . . . three times. He was amazed to see that his victim did not flinch or scream in pain! This man was depriving Lewis of the pleasure of punishing him. The madman threw aside the whip. He must know more about this man, he thought. So he commanded his victim, still bound to the whipping post, to reveal who he was and where he came from. The man told a strange story.

His name was Mariak and he was the son of the old chief of the Okalie Indian tribe! He was therefore of "royal blood" as far as Indian custom and culture were concerned. Mariak further revealed that he had been ostracized by his chieftain father for denying the sacred powers of the gods of his tribe. He had smashed the tribe's sacred Totem Pole in a fit of anger. Because of his rash act, he had to do penance by wandering the earth until he fulfilled a certain task put on him by his father. Mariak refused to tell Lewis what this certain task was. But during his wandering, Mariak had come to believe in the sanctity and power of his tribe's gods and the omnipotence of the Totem Pole.

Lewis burst into laughter. He told the Indian that his people were a dying race and would soon be obliterated from the face of the earth. These words incensed Mariak and he cursed Lewis, saying that the gods of the sacred Totem Pole would avenge this insult. Lewis insisted that the Okalies were not an honorable tribe. For example, he was willing to prove that with his money he could *buy* the tribe's so-called sacred Totem Pole. In fact, Lewis suddenly had a desire to own the Totem Pole and add it to his weird collection. He released Mariak, telling him he could continue his wanderings. He, Lewis, would pay a visit to the Okalies around the Lake Superior region and buy their Totem Pole! So Mariak left the madman's estate, while Lewis took the next train to his destination.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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When Lewis arrived in the region inhabited by the Okalies, he questioned the people who lived in the nearby towns. They verified Mariak's claim that these Indians held their Totem Pole in high reverence, and that the chief had ostracized his own son for denying the sanctity of the tribe's gods and smashing their sacred Totem. These people also had heard that Mariak had to perform a certain task before he would be welcomed back among his own people. But no one knew what his secret task was. Lewis was determined to learn the secret from the old chief himself.

And so, the following afternoon, Lewis went to the Okalie reservation. He had armed himself with a gun, just in case he had to "persuade" the chief to surrender the Totem Pole to him. On the reservation, he demanded an audience with the old chief. He was led to the chief's big council chamber and presented to the old man. Lewis was pleased to see the Totem Pole in this hut. He noticed that the topmost figure on the pole was missing. This must have been the result of Mariak's rash act of smashing the sacred Totem.

Lewis wasted no words. He told the chief how he had met his son on the Bowery with other human derelicts, how he had taken him to his estate and whipped him. How he had told Mariak that he would defy his people by gaining possession of the Totem which they regarded as sacred and omnipotent. Lewis offered to buy the object. But he knew what the old chief would say. The latter was enraged at this offer to buy their sacred Totem and ordered Lewis to leave. Lewis took out his gun. If the chief would not commit the sacrilege of selling the pole, then Lewis would simply take it away with him anyway! He fired the gun into the air, just to frighten the old man. This brought other young braves on the run into the council chamber.

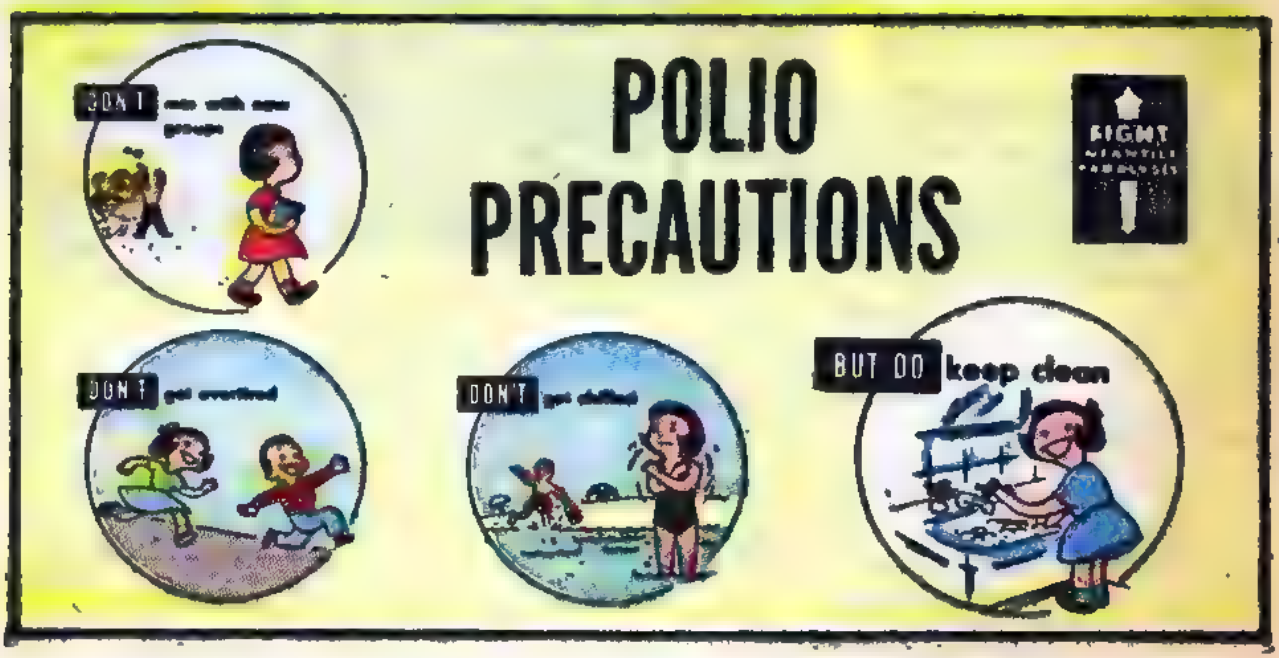
They seized Lewis before he could shoot them down. Then the old man spoke. "My son Mariak has accomplished the task of penance I set on him. He has sent me the cruelist mortal his eyes have seen! Now my son can return to his people!"

There was an air of horror in the chamber, and as the young Indians tightened their grip on Lewis, he fainted from fright! The next night, Mariak returned to the reservation. Knowing that Lewis had come among his people, he knew he had accomplished the secret task put upon him by his father. The old chief welcomed him.

"You have done your penance," the chief said. "Indeed you have sent us the most cruel mortal among living men, as I commanded you. The Totem Pole which you smashed is now whole again, for we have replaced the head which you destroyed . . . the personification of our god of evil!"

And then a tribal ceremony began, and the repaired Totem Pole was lifted aloft for all to see. And there, atop the new Totem Pole, rested the mummified head of Gregory Lewis, with its distorted and terrified face. Yes, he was the new personification of their god of evil . . . he was the new high man on the tribe's Totem Pole!

THE END D-272



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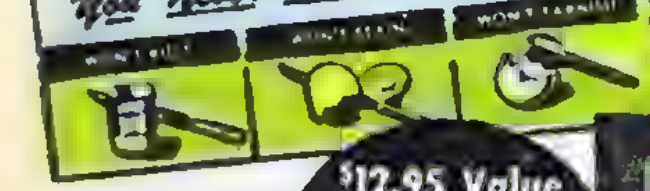

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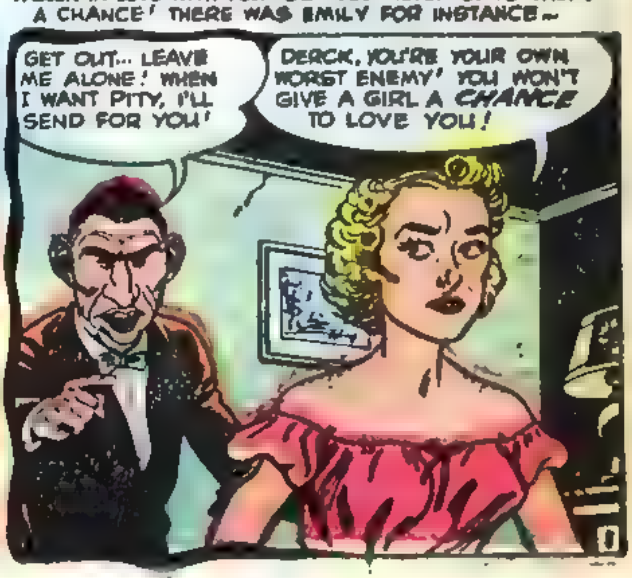
THE FACE OF HORROR

FOR 37 YEARS NO WOMAN'S LIPS HAVE TOUCHED YOURS IN A LOVING KISS! NO WOMAN'S EYES HAVE LOOKED INTO YOURS WITH AFFECTION AND LONGING - NO WOMAN'S ARMS HAVE HELD YOU TIGHT AND NO WOMAN'S VOICE HAS WHISPERED WORDS OF LOVE! BECAUSE YOU, DERCK WINTERS, ARE ONE OF THE UGLIEST MEN ON EARTH!

AND NO MATTER HOW MANY MIRRORS YOU BREAK, YOU CAN'T CHANGE YOUR FACE! YOU'RE UGLY... UGLY... UGLY!

OH YES, THERE WERE *SOME* GIRLS WHO MIGHT HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU...BUT YOU NEVER GAVE THEM A CHANCE! THERE WAS EMILY FOR INSTANCE...


GET OUT... LEAVE ME ALONE! WHEN I WANT PITY, I'LL SEND FOR YOU!
DERCK, YOU'RE YOUR OWN WORST ENEMY! YOU WON'T GIVE A GIRL A *CHANCE* TO LOVE YOU!

AND THERE WAS JANICE.. SHE COULDN'T SEE WITH HER EYES, BUT SHE SAW WITH HER HEART...

YOU LEFT HER, DERCK, REMEMBER? BECAUSE YOU WERE AFRAID OF WHAT PEOPLE MIGHT SAY! AFRAID PEOPLE WOULD SAY THAT ONLY A GIRL WHO COULDN'T SEE YOUR HIDEOUS FEATURES WOULD LOVE YOU!

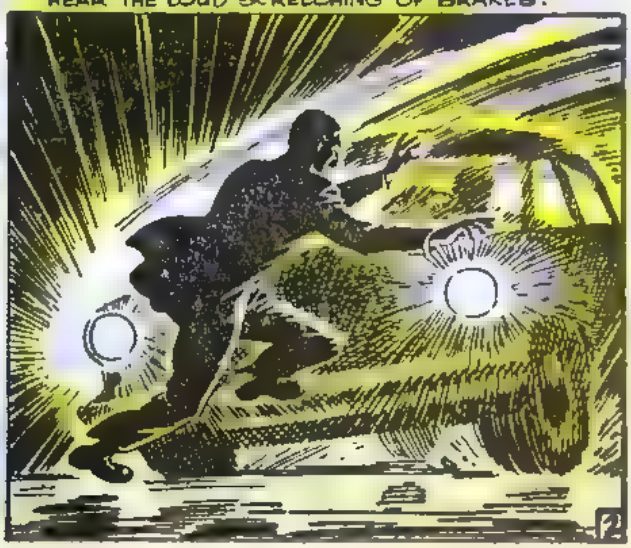
AND THRU THE YEARS YOU DWELLED IN A LONELINESS OF YOUR OWN MAKING! YOU WERE ASHAMED TO GET A JOB, ASHAMED TO MEET NEW PEOPLE, ASHAMED TO WALK THE STREETS.. YOUR UGLINESS WAS LIKE A PRISON WALL.. AND YOU WERE THE PRISONER WITHIN!

YOU STAND AND LOOK DOWN AT THE SHATTERED PIECES OF GLASS WHICH LIE AT YOUR FEET... A NEW FEAR STRIKES YOUR BRAIN.. THE FEAR THAT YOU'RE GOING MAD!

YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT! GOT TO WALK THRU THE STREETS...BREATHE THE EVENING AIR.. ESCAPE FROM THE FOUR WALLS WHICH HAVE BEEN CLOSING IN ON YOU FOR YEARS!

IT'S RAINING OUT... BUT YOU WALK THRU THE STORM WITHOUT FEELING THE DROPS... THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING FATEFUL ABOUT THIS EVENING... AS THOUGH SOMETHING STRANGE IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN... AS THOUGH YOU'RE KEEPING A DATE WITH DESTINY!

YOU CROSS A STREET WITHOUT LOOKING FOR CARS... AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, TWO *DEADLY* BRIGHT HEADLIGHTS CATCH YOU IN THEIR BEAM, AND YOU HEAR THE LOUD SCREECHING OF BRAKES!



AND THEN, THE HORRIBLE MOMENT OF IMPACT! AND THE WHOLE WORLD SPINS AROUND IN A CRAZY WHIRL!

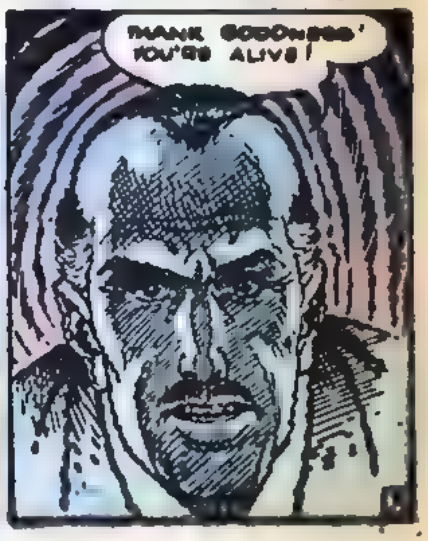
IN THE HALF-DARKNESS, MEMORIES COME TUMBLING THRU YOUR BRAIN... TIME LOSES ITS MEANING... AND YOU SEEM TO BE TEN YEARS YOUNGER AGAIN... TALKING TO YOUR FAMILY DOCTOR...

YOU MEAN THERE'S NO PLASTIC SURGEON IN THE WORLD WHO CAN CHANGE MY FACE... WHO CAN MAKE ME LOOK LESS MONSTROUS?
WELL, THERE IS *ONE*...

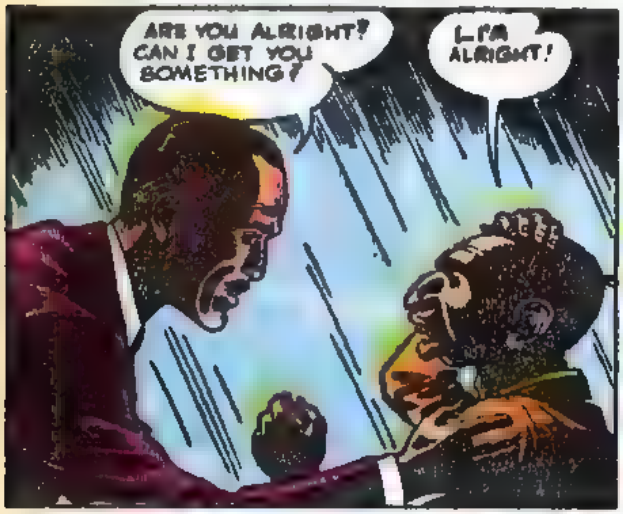
HIS NAME IS BASIL BLAKE... HE'S THE GREATEST LIVING PLASTIC SURGEON... HE'S THE *ONLY ONE* WHO COULD FIX YOUR FACE... BUT HE'S IN LONDON... AND HIS FEE IS $5,000 DOLLARS AN OPERATION!

AGAIN THE MEMORIES SPIN MADLY THRU YOUR HALF-CONSCIOUS BRAIN! YOU HAD FINALLY LEARNED OF BASIL BLAKE... BUT YOU COULDN'T EVEN AFFORD THE FARE TO LONDON... LET ALONE THE PRICE OF THE OPERATION!

SOMEONE IS RUBBING YOUR BROW! THE FOG IS CLEARING... A FACE FORMS ABOVE YOU... IT MUST BE THE DRIVER OF THE CAR THAT HIT YOU...



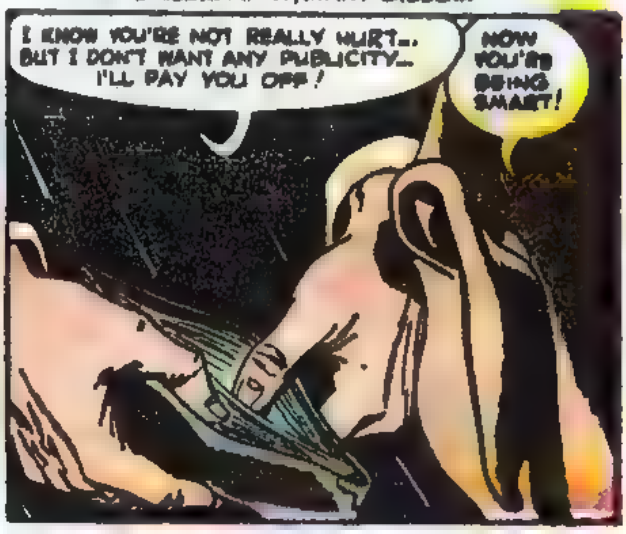
THE FACE WHICH STARES DOWN AT YOU IS A HANDSOME FACE, A CULTURED FACE! THE KIND OF FACE WHICH NATURE CHEATED YOU OUT OF! YOU HATE THE MAN BEHIND THAT FACE AS MUCH AS YOU'VE EVER HATED ANYTHING IN YOUR LIFE!



YOU SEE THE CAR THRU THE POUNDING RAIN... IT'S A LATE MODEL CADILLAC! YOUR MIND IS WORKING AT FEVER PITCH! THE MAN IS WEALTHY... THIS IS YOUR CHANCE... SEIZE YOUR OPPORTUNITY!

I'LL SUE YOU... I'LL TAKE YOU TO COURT... I'LL SWEAR YOU WERE A DRUNKEN DRIVER!
STOP! WAIT! DON'T GET EXCITED! I'LL PAY YOU WHATEVER YOU WANT! I DON'T WANT A LAWSUIT! BE REASONABLE... I'LL PAY YOU!

YOU SEE HIM TAKE A WALLET OUT OF HIS POCKET... IT'S A LARGE, THICK WALLET... MADE OF IMPORTED PIGSKIN... AND WITHIN IT, YOU CATCH A GLIMPSE OF BILLS... MANY, MANY BILLS...



YOU LOOK AROUND... THE STREETS ARE DESERTED. THERE ARE NO WITNESSES... ONLY YOU, AND THE NERVOUS DRIVER, AND THE POUNDING, FALLING RAIN IN THE BLACK NIGHT!

HE TAKES OUT A BILL FROM HIS WALLET AS CASUALLY AS YOU MIGHT TAKE A CIGARETTE FROM YOUR POCKET. AND HE SAYS...

AS YOU TAKE THE $500 BILL, YOUR MIND IS RACING... HIS WALLET IS FULL OF SUCH BILLS... HE MUST BE CARRYING THOUSANDS WITH HIM! HE MIGHT BE CARRYING ENOUGH TO BUY YOU THAT OPERATION FROM DOCTOR BASIL BLAKE!

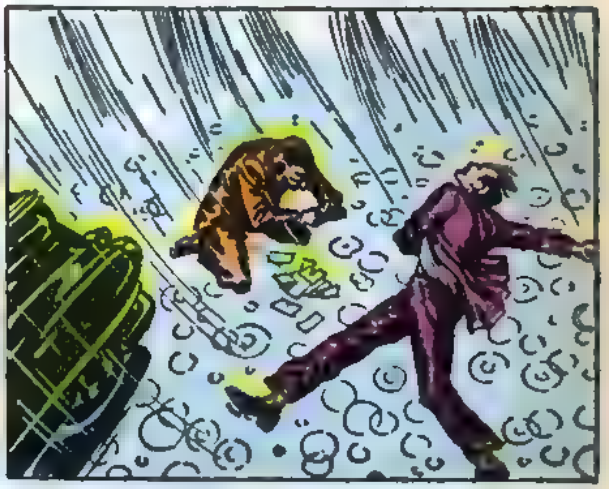
YOU COME TOWARD HIM, YOUR HANDS REACHING FOR HIS NECK...

YOUR GROPING FINGERS CLOSE UPON HIS NECK... AND YOU BEGIN TO SQUEEZE!! HE CAN'T CRY OUT... HE STRUGGLES... HE GASPS... BUT STILL YOU SQUEEZE!

YOU'VE LOST ALL SENSE OF REASON... ALL SANITY! ONLY ONE THOUGHT ECHOES OVER AND OVER IN YOUR MIND... BASIL BLAKE... THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD WHO CAN FIX YOUR FACE... BASIL BLAKE... BASIL BLAKE...

FINALLY... HE STRUGGLES NO LONGER... YOUR QUIVERING FINGERS RELEASE HIS LIMP FORM... IT'S ALL OVER! HE'S DEAD! HIS WALLET IS YOURS!

GREEDILY, HUNGRILY YOU TEAR THE BILLS FROM THE POCKET... EACH BILL BRINGING YOU CLOSER TO YOUR DREAM OF A NEW FACE! SWEAT POURS DOWN YOUR BROW... YOUR HANDS SHAKE IN EXCITEMENT... HE WAS CARRYING A *FORTUNE* WITH HIM!



AND THEN THE JOKE HITS YOU... THE FUNNY, HYSTERICAL, SIDESPLITTING JOKE! YOU BEGIN TO LAUGH... WILD, UNCONTROLLABLE PEALS OF MANIACAL LAUGHTER WHICH ECHO AND RE-ECHO THRU THE SILENT STREETS!

YOU'RE STILL LAUGHING WHEN THE POLICE COME AND LEAD YOU AWAY... THE HANDCUFFS ARE SLIPPED ON YOU, BUT YOU STILL HOLD FAST TO THE CARD YOU FOUND IN YOUR VICTIM'S POCKET.. THE CARD ON WHICH HIS NAME WAS PRINTED..

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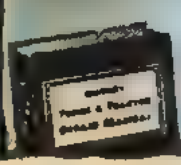

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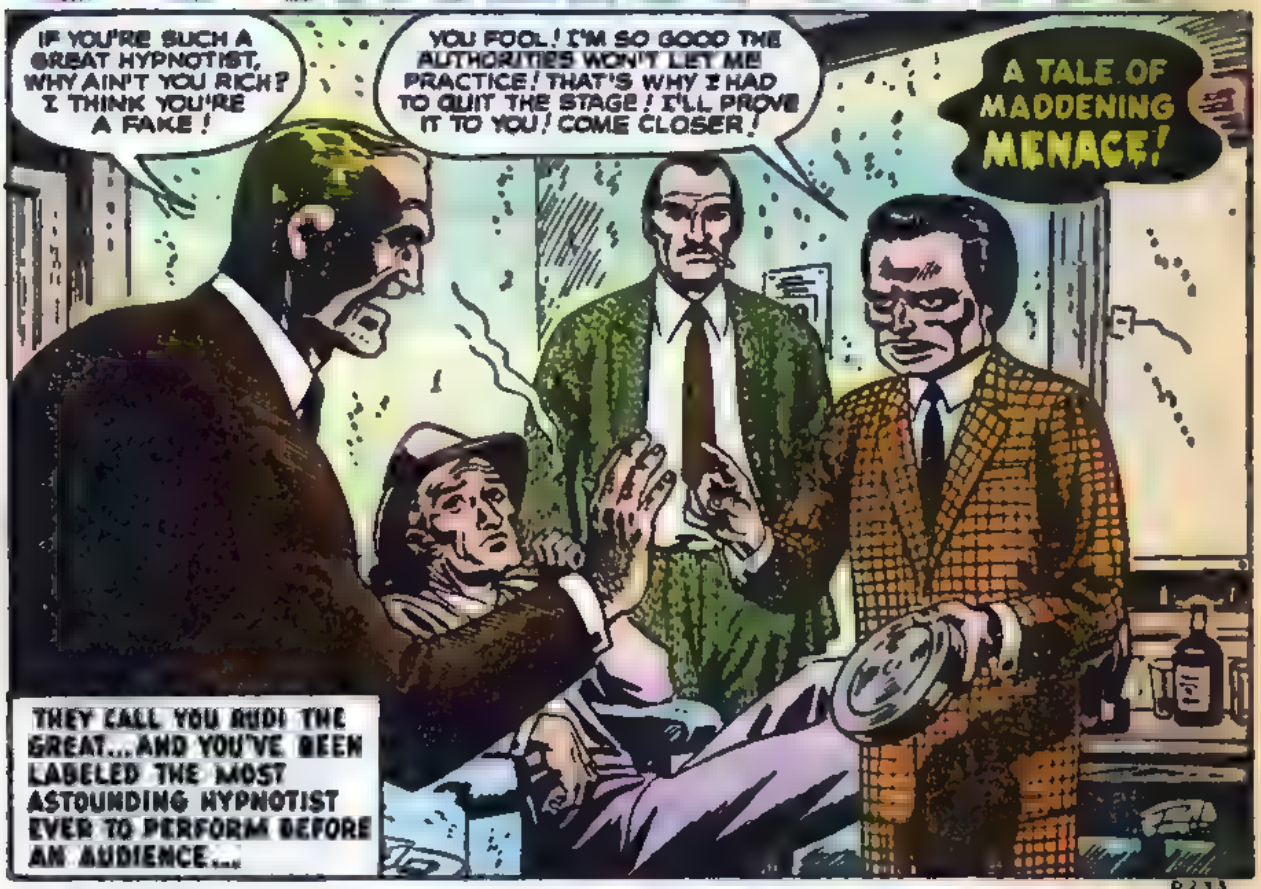
3 DIMENSIONS


IF YOU'RE SUCH A GREAT HYPNOTIST, WHY AIN'T YOU RICH? I THINK YOU'RE A FAKE!
YOU FOOL! I'M SO GOOD THE AUTHORITIES WON'T LET ME PRACTICE! THAT'S WHY I HAD TO QUIT THE STAGE! I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU! COME CLOSER!
A TALE OF MADDENING MENACE!
THEY CALL YOU RUDI THE GREAT...AND YOU'VE BEEN LABELED THE MOST ASTOUNDING HYPNOTIST EVER TO PERFORM BEFORE AN AUDIENCE...

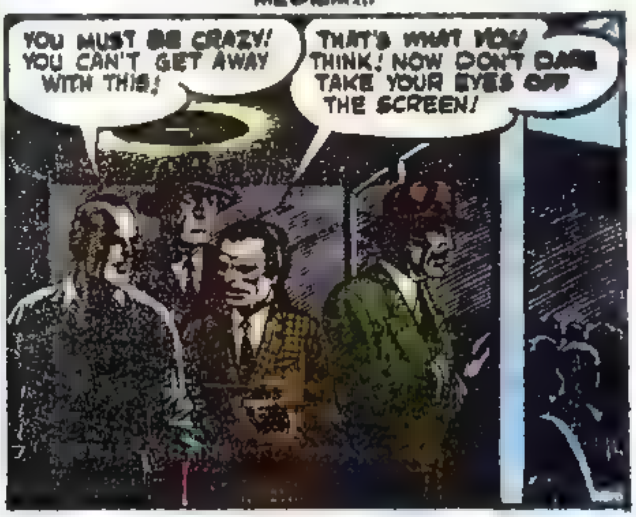
D 233

YOU LET YOUR FLASHING ORBS BURN DEEP INTO THE DOUBTER, AND YOUR CHANTING VOICE CLEARS AWAY THE HOOD'S THIN SHROUD OF WILL POWER...
YOU ARE A BIRD...YOU HAVE WINGS ...AND FEATHERS! YOU HAVE WINGS ...AND FEATHERS!
WINGS. FEATHERS..

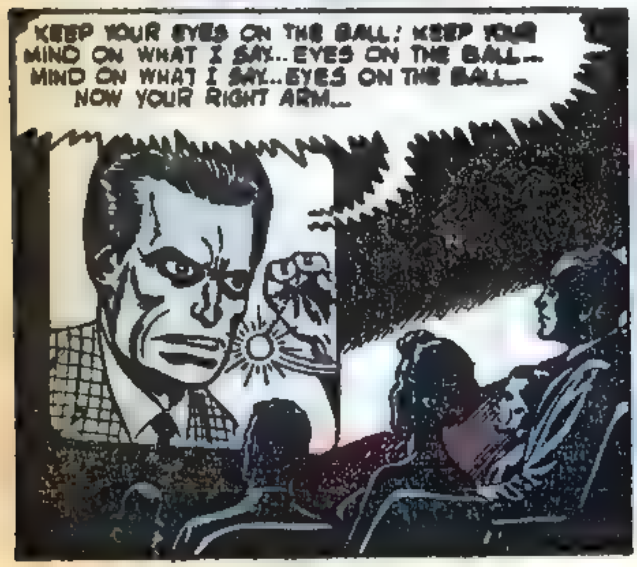
SO YOU AND YOUR GANG OF HOODS GO TO A LOCAL THEATRE...

MINUTES LATER...

THE AUDIENCE HARDLY STIRS WHEN THE IMAGE OF RUDI THE GREAT SNAPS OUT AT THEM FROM THE THREE-DIMENSIONAL SCREEN! THEY ARE USED TO STRANGE THINGS FROM THIS NEW, REALISTIC MEDIUM...

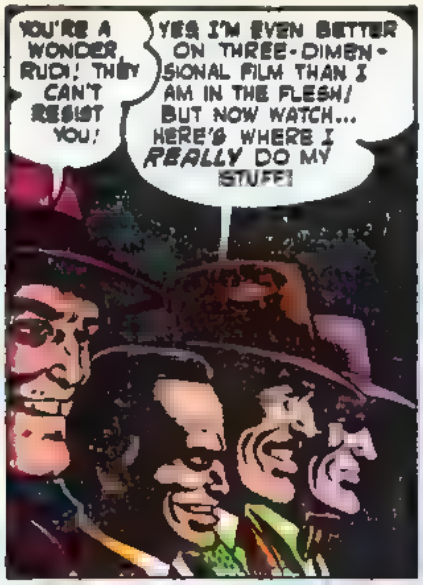


EVERYONE IN THE AUDIENCE SITS AS THOUGH ENTRANCED... YOUR VOICE DRONES ON AND ON LIKE A TIMELESS METRONOME...

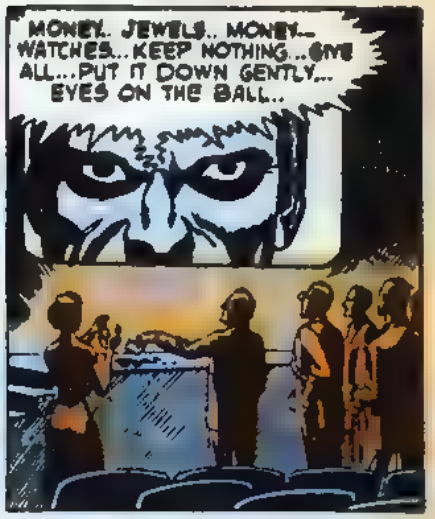


THE AUDIENCE HEARS AND OBEYS...

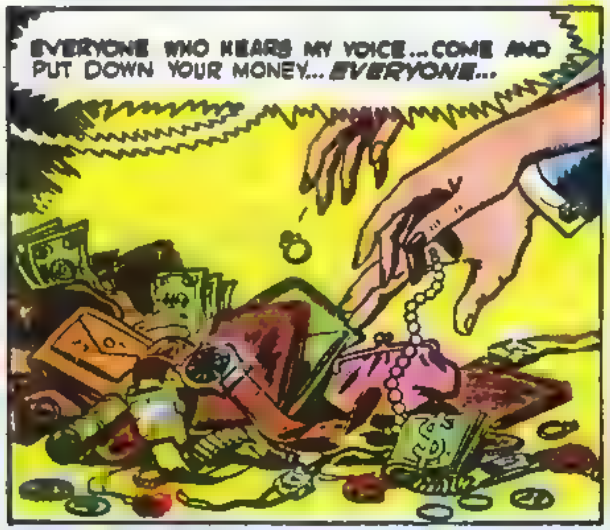
AND IN THE BACK OF THE THEATRE...


YOU'RE A WONDER, RUDI! THEY CAN'T RESIST YOU!
YES, I'M EVEN BETTER ON THREE-DIMENSIONAL FILM THAN I AM IN THE FLESH! BUT NOW WATCH... HERE'S WHERE I *REALLY* DO MY STUFF!

LIKE SO MANY SHEEP THE ENTIRE AUDIENCE RISES AND WALKS TO THE STAGE, IN NEAT, ORDERLY COLUMNS...



THEY COME AND THEY ARE FLEECED AND FROM THE EXPRESSIONS ON THEIR FACES, THEY LOVE IT... AND NOTHING IS HEARD BUT YOUR SIREN SONG...



BUT EVEN YOU, RUDI, HAVE NOT RECKONED ON ONE LITTLE ITEM...

AND SO, RUDY, YOUR LITTLE SCHEME BOOMERANGED... BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... YOU *ARE* THE *GREATEST* HYPNOTIST OF THEM ALL!

WHAT WERE WE PLANNING?
IT WAS A PERFECT JOB, WHATEVER IT WAS! WHAT WAS IT, RUDI?
SHUT UP! I CAN'T REMEMBER! NOW LET'S TRY TO *THINK*! *BAH!* I *CAN'T REMEMBER!*
THE END

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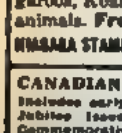

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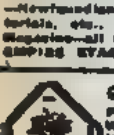

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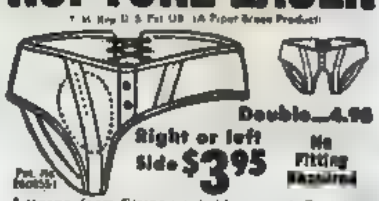

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THAT'S THE WINDUP TO OUR DELIGHTFUL QUINTET! WE WANT TO LEAVE YOU WITH A NEW-CHILLED SPINE, KIDDIES, SO FEAST YOUR OPTICS ON GAME-SOME GUSTAV! THE LITTLE BOY IS HANDY WITH A WOOD CARVER'S KNIVES ... BUT HE'S GOOD, TOO! AND THAT OTHER CREEPS CAN BE CUTE CUT-UPS, TOO!

THE WOODEN WOMAN

IT IS THE YEAR 1789, AND YOU ARE HARD AT WORK, GUSTAV, IN YOUR LITTLE CUBBYHOLE IN THE CROOKED STREETS IN ANCIENT FRANCE...

BEHIND THOSE SHUTTERS AND LOCKED DOORS THAT SHUT OUT THE OUTSIDE WORLD, YOU ARE ALWAYS HUNCHED OVER YOUR WORK...

AND AS YOU WORK YOUR THOUGHTS SURROUND YOU WITH BEAUTIFUL MAIDENS...

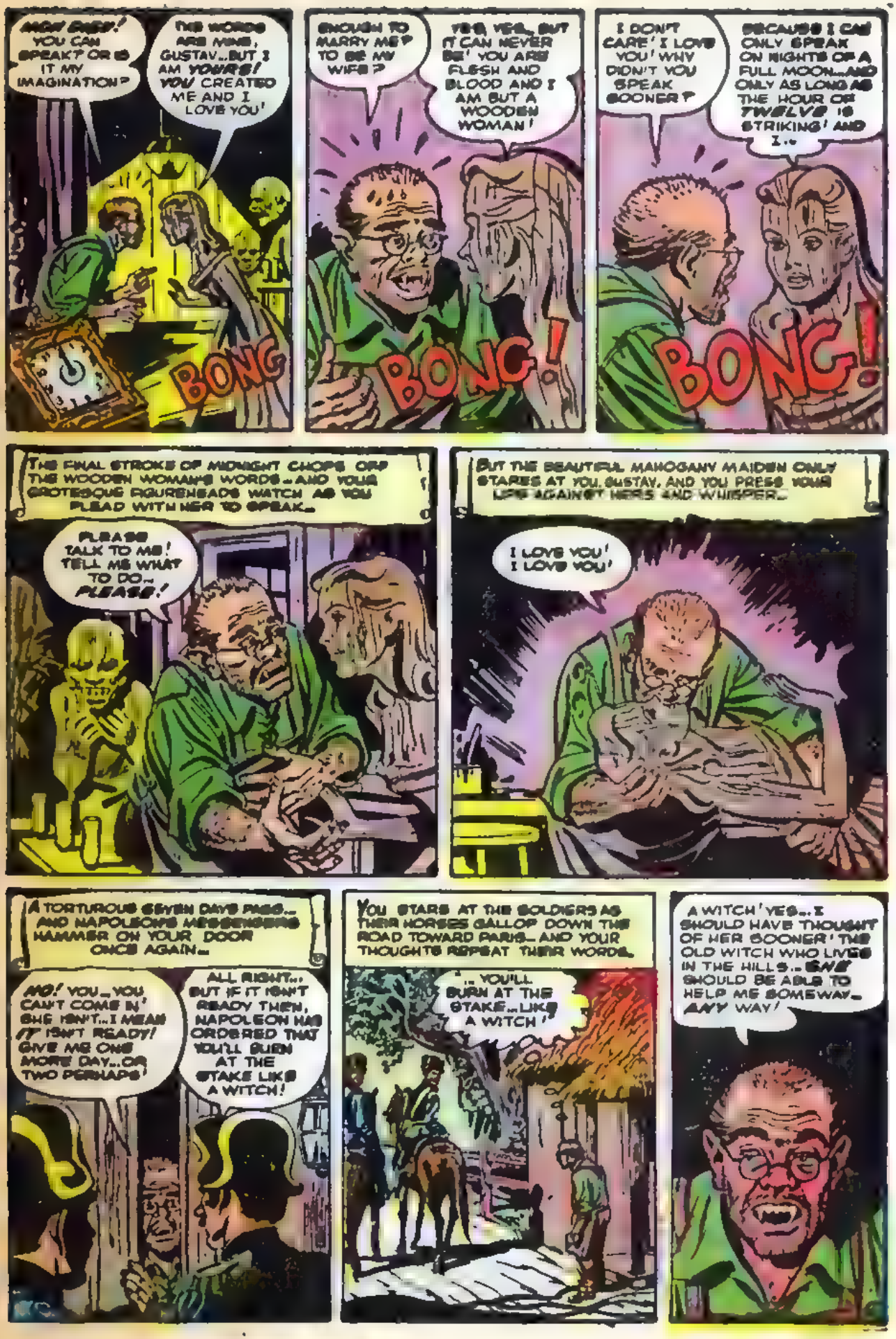
WHILE YOUR GNARLED HANDS CREATE THE GROTESQUE WOODEN HORRORS YOU ARE FAMOUS FOR...

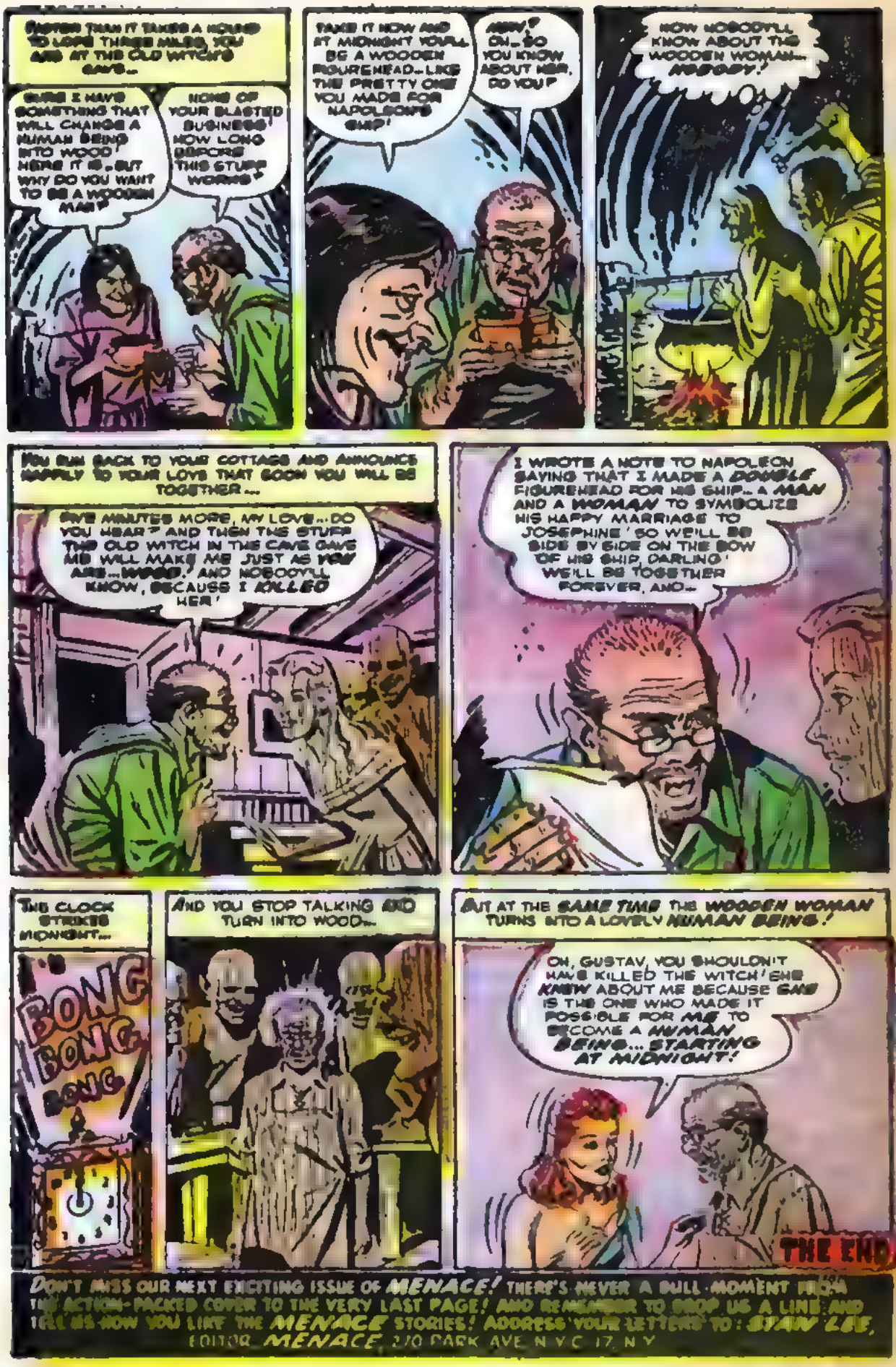
HA! IT IS INDEED A SHIPS FIGUREHEAD WORTHY OF THE PIRATES' DOOM IF STILL FIERCE UPON IT WILL HAUNT THE SEVEN SEAS!

A TALE OF MADDENING MENACE!

YOU ADMIRE YOUR CREATIONS WITH GREAT JOY... UNTIL THE HEAVY POMMEL OF A MILITARY SWORD BEATS UPON YOUR DOOR...
BANG
BANG
STOP THAT INFERNAL KNOCKING! GO AWAY! IF YOU ARE A NEIGHBOR... I HAVE NO TIME FOR VISITING! AND IF YOU ARE A LOST WAYFARER... I HAVE NO FOOD OR LODGING! GO-GONE!
KNOCK!
BAM!
SUDDENLY THE DOOR SMASHES OPEN... AND FRAMED IN THE DOORWAY THERE STANDS A STERN, LITTLE MAN IN THE UNIFORM OF A HIGH FRENCH OFFICER...
AND WHAT IF IT IS NAPOLEON BONAPARTE WHO KNOCKS?
NAPOLEON BONAPARTE! AHEM! ONLY A THOUSAND PARDONS, MONSIEUR! I... I DIDN'T KNOW!
AND IS IT ALSO YOUR IGNORANCE OR YOUR ARROGANCE WHICH PUTS YOU TO LABOR FOR SEA RAIDERS AND PIRATES? THIS MONSTROUS HEAD CAN ONLY BE FOR THE BARBARIAN!
YOU HAVE A SHARP EYE, MONSIEUR! BUT IT IS ONLY PIRATES AND SEA RAIDERS WHO BUY MY FIGUREHEADS! AND A MAN MUST LIVE!
IT IS SO BECAUSE YOUR MIND IS AS WARPED AS YOUR HANDS! YOU CAN ONLY CARVE THE UGLINESS IN THE WORLD! WHY NOT CARVE BEAUTY? FIGUREHEADS OF LOVELY WOMEN!
WOMAN... BAH! I SPIT A CURSE UPON THEM ALL! MY KNIVES AND WOOD WILL NEVER IMMORTALIZE A WOMAN! THAT IS THEIR PUNISHMENT FOR SNICKERING AT ME BEHIND THEIR SILKEN FANS!
BUT I'VE COME ALL THE DISTANCE FROM PARIS TO COMMISSION YOU TO CARVE A FIGUREHEAD OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN FOR MY SHIP... TO REMIND ME OF MY JOSEPHINE WHEN I SAIL!
NO, NO... I WON'T!
NEVER WILL I CARVE A WOODEN WOMAN!
CARVE, SIR! OR... OR I'LL CARVE YOU!

SO YOU CARVE, GUSTAV! THE FOLLOWING MORNING YOU SLASH AT THE WOOD WITH ANGRY STROKES...
BUT ON THE SECOND DAY YOU ARE GENTLE... AND UNDER THE MAGIC OF YOUR SKILLED HANDS, A FACE BEGINS TO APPEAR...
BY THE SEVENTH DAY, THE FACE HAS A BODY...
AND TWO WEEKS LATER YOU YOURSELF ARE AMAZED AT THE BEAUTY YOU HAVE CREATED...
A WOODEN WOMAN... BUT I... I FEEL AS IF SHE WERE REAL... AS IF I HAD MET HER SOMEWHERE BEFORE!
YES..YES! NOW I KNOW! SHE WAS IN MY THOUGHTS...ALL THESE LONELY YEARS, I SAT HERE AND CARVED... AND DREAMED! I HATED WOMEN... HATED THEM BECAUSE THEY HATED ME AND MY UGLY FACE! BUT I'M HUMAN... I HAVE A HEART.. I HAVE FEELINGS ..AND I WANT A WOMAN TO LOVE ME!
BAM! BAM!
HEY, IN THERE! OPEN UP! WE'RE MESSENGERS FROM NAPOLEON BONAPARTE! IS THE FIGUREHEAD FOR HIS SHIP READY?
NO...NO! TELL NAPOLEON I MUST HAVE MORE TIME— ANOTHER WEEK!
YOU LIE, GUSTAV. SO YOU MIGHT HAVE A WEEK TO ADMIRE YOUR CREATION...
ANOTHER DAY TO SIT HERE... TO FEAST MY EYES UPON A WOMAN WHO DOESN'T TURN HER HEAD FROM ME! WHY MUST THEY BE SO CRUEL? WHY CAN'T THEY ALL BE LIKE YOU? WHY DO YOU LOOK SO KINDLY AT ME?
IT IS AT THE FIRST STROKE OF MIDNIGHT THAT IT HAPPENS...
THE WOODEN WOMAN'S LIPS MOVE... AND YOU TREMBLE WITH AMAZEMENT AS SHE ANSWERS YOUR QUESTION!
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, GUSTAV!


MON DIEU! YOU CAN SPEAK? OR IS IT MY IMAGINATION?
THE WORDS ARE MINE, GUSTAV..BUT I AM YOURS! YOU CREATED ME AND I LOVE YOU!
BONG
ENOUGH TO MARRY ME? TO BE MY WIFE?
YES, YES, BUT IT CAN NEVER BE! YOU ARE FLESH AND BLOOD AND I AM BUT A WOODEN WOMAN!
BONG!
I DON'T CARE! I LOVE YOU! WHY DIDN'T YOU SPEAK SOONER?
BECAUSE I CAN ONLY SPEAK ON NIGHTS OF A FULL MOON..AND ONLY AS LONG AS THE HOUR OF TWELVE IS STRIKING! AND I..
BONG!
THE FINAL STROKES OF MIDNIGHT CHOPS OFF THE WOODEN WOMAN'S WORDS..AND YOUR GROTESQUE FIGUREHEADS WATCH AS YOU PLEAD WITH HER TO SPEAK...
PLEASE TALK TO ME! TELL ME WHAT TO DO.. PLEASE!
BUT THE BEAUTIFUL MAHOGANY MAIDEN ONLY STARES AT YOU, GUSTAV, AND YOU PRESS YOUR LIPS AGAINST HERS AND WHISPER..
I LOVE YOU! I LOVE YOU!
A TORTUROUS SEVEN DAYS PASS... AND NAPOLEON'S MESSENGERS HAMMER ON YOUR DOOR ONCE AGAIN...
NO! YOU..YOU CAN'T COME IN! SHE ISN'T..I MEAN IT ISN'T READY! GIVE ME ONE MORE DAY..OR TWO PERHAPS!
ALL RIGHT.. BUT IF IT ISN'T READY THEN, NAPOLEON HAS ORDERED THAT YOU'LL BURN AT THE STAKE LIKE A WITCH!
YOU STARE AT THE SOLDIERS AS THEIR HORSES GALLOP DOWN THE ROAD TOWARD PARIS..AND YOUR THOUGHTS REPEAT THEIR WORDS..
.. YOU'LL BURN AT THE STAKE..LIKE A WITCH!
A WITCH! YES.. I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF HER SOONER! THE OLD WITCH WHO LIVES IN THE HILLS.. SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HELP ME SOMEWAY.. ANY WAY!


SWIFTER THAN IT TAKES A HOUND TO LOPE THREE MILES, YOU ARE AT THE OLD WITCH'S CAVE...
HERE I HAVE SOMETHING THAT WILL CHANGE A HUMAN BEING INTO WOOD! HERE IT IS - BUT WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE A WOODEN MAN?
NONE OF YOUR BLASTED BUSINESS! HOW LONG BEFORE THIS STUFF WORKS?
TAKE IT NOW AND AT MIDNIGHT YOU'LL BE A WOODEN FIGUREHEAD - LIKE THE PRETTY ONE YOU MADE FOR NAPOLEON'S SHIP!
AHH! OH - SO YOU KNOW ABOUT HER, DO YOU?
NOW NOBODY'LL KNOW ABOUT THE WOODEN WOMAN... NOBODY!
YOU RUN BACK TO YOUR COTTAGE AND ANNOUNCE HAPPILY TO YOUR LOVE THAT SOON YOU WILL BE TOGETHER...
FIVE MINUTES MORE, MY LOVE - DO YOU HEAR? AND THEN THE STUFF THE OLD WITCH IN THE CAVE GAVE ME WILL MAKE ME JUST AS YOU ARE - WOOD! AND NOBODY'LL KNOW, BECAUSE I KILLED HER!
I WROTE A NOTE TO NAPOLEON SAYING THAT I MADE A DOUBLE FIGUREHEAD FOR HIS SHIP - A MAN AND A WOMAN TO SYMBOLIZE HIS HAPPY MARRIAGE TO JOSEPHINE! SO WE'LL BE SIDE BY SIDE ON THE BOW OF HIS SHIP, DARLING! WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER, AND...
THE CLOCK STRIKES MIDNIGHT...
BONG BONG BONG
AND YOU STOP TALKING AND TURN INTO WOOD...
BUT AT THE SAME TIME THE WOODEN WOMAN TURNS INTO A LOVELY HUMAN BEING!
OH, GUSTAV, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE KILLED THE WITCH! SHE KNEW ABOUT ME BECAUSE SHE IS THE ONE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO BECOME A HUMAN BEING... STARTING AT MIDNIGHT!
THE END
DON'T MISS OUR NEXT EXCITING ISSUE OF MENACE! THERE'S NEVER A DULL MOMENT FROM THE ACTION-PACKED COVER TO THE VERY LAST PAGE! AND REMEMBER TO DROP US A LINE AND TELL US HOW YOU LIKE THE MENACE STORIES! ADDRESS YOUR LETTERS TO: STAN LEE, EDITOR, MENACE, 210 PARK AVE. N.Y.C. 17, N.Y.

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SKINNY!

Give Me 15 Minutes A Day And I'll Give YOU A NEW BODY

WOULD you believe it? I was once a skinny 97-pound weakling. People used to laugh at my spindly build. I was ashamed to strip for sports or for a swim. Girls snickered at me behind my back. Folks said I was just "naturally-born skinny!"

Then I discovered my marvelous new muscle-building system—"*Dynamic Tension.*" And it turned me into such a *complete* specimen of MANHOOD that today I hold the title, "THE WORLD'S MOST PERFECTLY DEVELOPED MAN."

ARE YOU
Skinny and run down?
Always tired?
Nervous?
Lacking in Confidence?
Constipated?
Suffering from bad breath?
Do you want to gain weight?
WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT is told in my FREE BOOK!

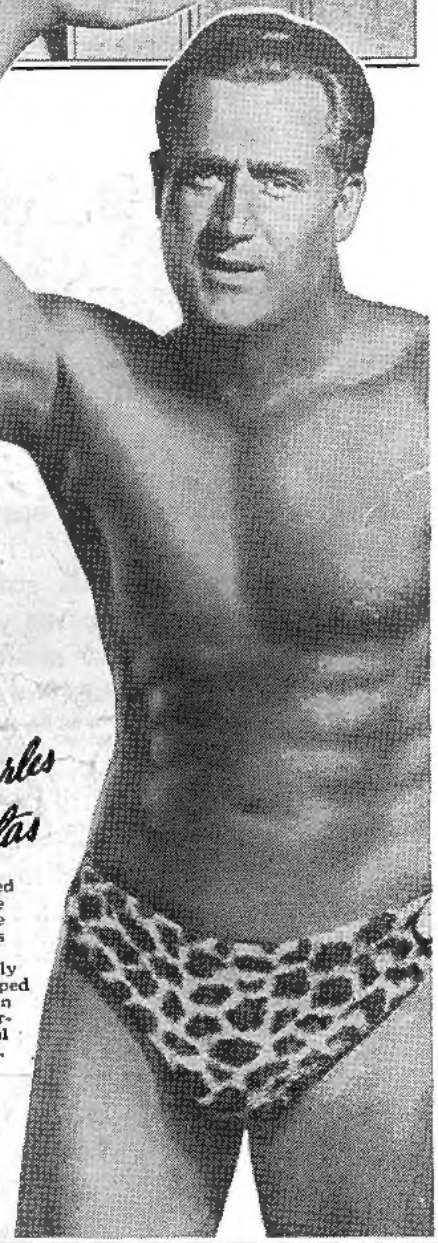
WHAT'S MY SECRET?

When you look in the mirror and see a healthy, husky, strapping fellow smiling back at you—then you'll be astonished at how fast "*Dynamic Tension*" GETS RESULTS!

"*Dynamic Tension*" *is the easy,* NATURAL method that you can practice in the privacy of your own room—JUST 15 MINUTES EACH DAY—while your scrawny chest and shoulder muscles begin to swell . . . those spindly arms and legs of yours bulge . . . and your whole body starts to feel full of zip, ambition, self-confidence, and new energy!

"Dynamic Tension" Builds You NATURALLY

Thousands of other fellows are becoming marvelous physical specimens—my way. I give you no gadgets or contraptions to fool with. You simply utilize the dormant muscle-power in your own body. In a very short time, you'll watch it grow and multiply into real, solid, rippling, LIVE MUSCLE.



Charles Atlas

Awarded the title of "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man" in an international contest.

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☐ *If under 14 years of age, check here for Booklet A.*

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$1 12 DAY SUPPLY ONLY

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